PRINCE RVPERT HIS DECLARATION.

OXFORD,
Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD,
Printer to the Vniversity. 1642.

UMI - 1990

PRINCE RUPERT HIS DECLARATION.

IT will ſeeme ſtrange (no doubt) to ſee me in print, my knowne diſpoſition being ſo contrary to this ſcribling age; and ſure I had not put my ſelfe upon a Declaration, if in common prudence I could have done otherwiſe.

I need not tell the world (for it is too well knowne) what malicious lying Pamphlets are printed againſt mee almoſt every morning, whereby thoſe buſie men ſtrive to render me as odious as they would have me, againſt whom doubtleſſe I had ſooner declared, but that I well knew this mutinous lying ſpirit would be eaſily convinced, but never ſilenced, which, as it ceaſeth at no time, ſo it ſpares no perſon. And this was too manifeſt to me, by thoſe bold, odious and impoſsible untruths forged againſt His ſacred Majeſtie, their owne King and Soveraigne (and my Gracious and Royall Uncle) who is onely guilty of this, that he is too good to be their King; and to deale clearly, this was it furniſhed me with ſufficient patience, thinking it but reaſonable, that I ſhould be ſlandered as well as His Majeſtie.

But ſince it hath pleaſed my Lord *Wharton* to tell the whole City of *London* openly at Guild-hall, and ſince to tell it all the world in print, that one great cauſe of their preſervation at *Edge-hill*, was the barbarouſneſſe and inhumanity of

Prince *Rupert* and his Troopers, that we ſpared neither man, woman, nor child, and the thing which we aime at is pillage and plundering, and the way which we would come by it is murthering and deſtroying; ſince ſuch a charge as this comes from ſuch a mouth, I hold my ſelfe bound in honour to ſpeak and tell that Lord, that as much of his ſpeech as concernes mee, is no truer then the reſt of it, which for the moſt part is as falſe as any thing that hath been ſpoken or printed in *London* theſe two yeares: and had I knowne his Lordſhips intention, I would have asked his reaſon either before or now at *Keinton*, if his Lordſhip had but ſtayed ſo long as to be asked the queſtion.

But me thinke I heare the credulous people ſay, What? was not the Kings Standard reſcued from them by force? were there ſo many as 20. of our men killed by all the Kings Canons? was not our right wing long under the power of their Canons, ſo as ſome 17. ſhot of Canon ſhot againſt them, and yet not a man of ours ſo much as hurt? Nay, were there not 3000. ſlaine of the Kings Army, and but 300. of ours? If theſe abominable untruths (with many more like them in his Lordſhips ſpeech) be all true, then ſhall he freely charge me with barbarouſneſſe and inhumanity; but if theſe be moſt groſſe falſities (as many thouſand worthy Gentlemen will take their oathes they are, then I muſt profeſſe I am ſorry that any Baron of the Engliſh Nation ſhould utter ſuch fowl untruths, to deceive the poore abuſed Citizens of *London* with falſe reports, and ſo ſlander us. 'Twas ever my opinion, that no valiant man would ſpeake a knowne untruth; nor can I blame his Lordſhip or any others faint-heartedneſſe in ſo bad a cauſe as theirs is, which doubtleſſe is the reaſon why ſuch Noblemen and Gentry in His Majeſties Army, who hitherto had ſpent all their daies in peace, could then fight ſo valiantly *ex tempore*, not valuing their lives, and forgetting their deareſt relations; ſo as our enemies in their hackney railing Pamphlets were forced to ſay, *The Cavaliers* (to give the Diell his due) *fought very valiantly*: And indeed, had they not ſhewed

rather too much valour, our enemies had had leſſe bottome whereon to found any untruths, whereof I take this relation to be one of their maſter-pieces of forgeries, for that they ſlew as many of ours, as we did of theirs, is as true, as that they beat us at *Sherbourne Caſtle* and at *Worceſter*.

Now for barbarouſneſſe and inhumanity to women and children, wherewith his Lordſhip and thoſe impudent unpuniſhed papers cried daily in the ſtreets do continually ſlander us, I muſt here profeſſe, that I take that man to be no Souldier or Gentleman, that will ſtrike (much leſſe kill) a woman or a child, if it be in his power to doe the contrary: And I openly dare the moſt valiant and quick-ſighted of that lying Faction, to name the time, the perſon, or the houſe, where any child or woman loſt ſo much as a haire from their head by me, or any of our ſouldiers. In a battell, where two Armies fight, many one hath unfortunately killed his deareſt friend, very often thoſe whom willingly hee would otherwiſe have ſpared; and whether any woman or child were killed in this fight is more then I can juſtly ſay: I am ſorry if there were. I ſpeak not how wilfully barbatous their ſouldiers were to the Counteſſe *Rivers*, to the Lady *Lucas* in *Eſſex*, and likewiſe to the like perſons of quality in *Kent*, and other places: Whom have wee ever puniſhed for ſpeaking againſt us, as they moſt Jewiſhly whipped to death a Citizen of *London*, for ſaying no more then what was included in His Majeſties Proclamation. But ſince they name plundering, whoſe monies? nay, whoſe Armes have we taken away, unleſſe theirs, who actually had, or at leaſt declared they would uſe them againſt His Majeſties Army? And for that little cloth borrowed for our ſouldiers (wherewith their Pamphlets make ſuch a noiſe) His Majeſty by Gods help will ſee it better paid for, then any thing they have taken upon *publick Faith*. What houſe have we ranſacked, as they did the Earle of *Northampton's*? mangling and cutting in pieces rich chaires, beds, ſtooles and hangings; drinking as much and as long as they were able, then letting the reſt run out upon the floore, when as the

very

very Earle of *Eſſex* his houſe at *Chartley* ſuffered not the leaſt damage by us. What Churches have we defaced, as they did at *Canterbury*, *Oxford*, *Worceſter*, and many other places? whoſe pockets have vve pickt ever to the value of three pence, under pretence of ſearching for letters, as they lately did in *Gloceſterſhire*, and particularly this laſt week at *Windſor* and *Vxbridge*? Is it not their uſuall practice firſt to plunder a mans houſe of all plate and monies, and then impriſon him as a Delinquent, for no other fault, but becauſe he ſtood loyall to his Prince; as if it vvere too little to take a mans eſtate, unleſſe alſo they rob him of his innocence? Have they not now ſtuffed all the priſons in London vvith Earles, Lords, Biſhops, Judges and Knights, Maſters of Colledges, Lawyers and Gentlemen of all conditions and Counties? for vvhat (God knowes) they themſelves know not: inſomuch as now they are enforced to find out new priſons for the Knights, Aldermen, and ſubſtantiall Citizens of London, vvho are now thruſt in thither only becauſe they are ſuſpected to love their King? Have they not by impriſonment or threats muzzeled the mouthes of the moſt grave and learnedſt Preachers of London? vvitneſſe Doctor *Featly*, Doctor *Hayward*, Doctor *Holdſworth*, Maſter *Shute*, Maſter *Squire*, Maſter *Griffith*, and many others (for ſo I am informed theſe men are) becauſe they preach that vvhich their conſcience tells them is the knowne truth. And vvho are countenanced but ignorant and ſeditious teachers, vvho (like the Maſſe Prieſts of old) call mightily on the people for their plate and money for their patrons and themſelves: vvho, beſides their daily Pulpit treaſons, vent ſuch other Divinity, as if *Luther* vvere living, he vvould bluſh to call them Proteſtants: And if this be not cruelty, injuſtice, and tyranny, let God and poſterity judge. Now for any looſeneſſe or incivility in our ſouldiers more then vvhat is incident and common to great Armies, I vviſh they vvould not mention it, leſt ſome impartiall readers, who know their courſes, underſtand it to be meant by ſome of their great Reformers, vvho are that way as notoriouſly guilty as any:

any: And for my ſelfe, I appeale to the conſciences of thoſe Lords and Gentlemen, vvho are my daily witneſſes, and to thoſe people vvhereſoever our Army hath been, vvhat they know, or have obſerved in my carriage, which might not become one of my quality, and the ſon of a King. And whereas they ſlander us for *Popiſh Cavaliers*, I vviſh there were no more Papiſts in their Army then vve have in ours; but to me tis no vvonder with what face they can ſlander us for men diſaffected to the Proteſtant Religion, vvhen as their grand Reformers refuſe to come to Church. For His ſacred Majeſty I have been a frequent vvitneſſe here in England (and all the world knowes he never ſhewed himſelf otherwiſe) and therefore hold it to be my part and duty to tell them, that His Majeſty is the moſt faithfull and beſt defender of the Proteſtant Religion of any Chriſtian Prince in *Europe*, and is ſo accounted by all the Princes in Chriſtendome. And vvhat a gracious ſupporter hath he been in particular to the Queene of *Bohemia* (my vertuous Royall mother) and to the Prince Elector, my Royall brother, no man can be ignorant of: if therefore in common gratitude I do my utmoſt in defence of His Majeſty, and that cauſe whereof hee hath hitherto been ſo great and happy a patron; no ingenuous man but muſt thinke it moſt reaſonable: And for my ſelfe, the vvorld knows how deeply I have ſmarted, and vvhat perils I have undergone for the Proteſtant cauſe, vvhat ſtately large promiſes vvere offered me vvould I conſent; and vvhat a wretched cloſe imprisonment vvas threatned, if I refuſed to change my Religion, vvhen I was captive to the Emperour of *Germany*, enough to ſatisfie any man of moderation: But if it be not ſufficient, I vvould to God all Engliſhmen were at union amongſt themſelves, then vvith what alacrity vvould I venture my life to ſerve this Kingdome againſt thoſe cruell Popiſh Rebels in Ireland: for though I will never fight in any unrighteous quarrell, yet to defend the King, Religion and Lawes of a Kingdome againſt ſubjects, who are up in armes againſt their Lord and Soveraigne, and ſuch (all good wiſe men know this

and

and that of Ireland to be) though the pretence looke severall waies; such a cause my conscience tells mee is full of piety and justice: and if it please God to end my daies in it, I shall thinke my last breath spent with as much honour and religion, as if I were taken off my knees at my prayers. I thinke there is none that take me for a Coward; for sure I feare not the face of any man alive, yet I should repute it the greatest victory in the world to see His Majesty enter London in peace, without shedding one drop of bloud: where, I dare say (God and His Majesty are witnesses I lye not) no Citizen should be plundered of one penny or farthing, whereby that ancient and famous City would manifestly perceive how desperately it hath been abused by most strange, false and bottomlesse untruths, for which some body (without repentance) must be ashamed at the day of Judgement, if they escape a condigne legall punishment in this world: I therefore conclude with this open profession (and I am confident our whole Army will say *Amen* unto it) he that hath any designe against the Protestant Religion, the Lawes of England, or hopes to enrich himselfe by pillaging the City of London, let him be accursed: And so, whether peace or warre, the Lord prosper the worke of their hands who stand for GOD and King CHARLES.

RUPERT.

UMI - 1990